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TRACTS FOR OUR TIME : MISSION SERIES  
CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE PUBLISHING CO.

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- 1) "THE ISLANDS"
- 2) "THE OPPORTUNITY"

# Tracts for the Times

## Mission Series

### The Islands

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Temples of the  
Holy Ghost  
How to Take It  
How to Keep It  
Should We Care for  
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### Christian Alliance Publishing Co.

692 Eighth Avenue, New York City

## The Islands.

ONE of the most beautiful prophetic chapters of Isaiah tells us as a sign of the last days that the "Isles shall wait for his Law." And again the same prophet calls, "Listen, O isles." Truly one of the signs of our times is the remarkable movement of missions among the islands of the sea.

### 1. Japan.

Japan is the greatest of the island empires of the heathen world. Her population today is nearly 50,000,000, and her progress in education, commerce and all the arts of civilization has placed her in the van of the world's new nations. Christianity is spreading rapidly in Japan. It has reached large numbers of the educated classes, and a considerable proportion of the statesmen and legislators are members of the Christian churches. The number of native Christians is not less than 50,000. Recently a great revival, chiefly conducted by the native Christians themselves, has spread

over the land, and the outlook of Christianity is bright and hopeful. But there is still much spiritual destitution, and many towns and villages are yet without the gospel. It is a most attractive mission field, and among these bright, intelligent people, and especially among their children, there is a great harvest of souls for wise and willing workers. The island of Formosa is now part of Japan, and the gospel has made great headway among the two and a half million of these people.

## **2. The Philippine Islands.**

Admiral Dewey's great victory in May, 1898, was the signal for the opening of the Philippine group to the entrance of freedom and Christianity. There are 1,200 islands in this cluster, with a population of from 8,000,000 to 10,000,000. Already missions have been planted in Manila, and many portions of Luzon and Mindanao. The conduct of the Romish friars, the chief agents of Spanish oppression, has alienated the people from them, and they are welcoming the true heralds of Christianity. But the work has only begun, and there is a great white harvest

field all over these fair Isles, for the sower and the reaper. The Filipinos are a Malay people, and it is a sad fact that the Malays have been almost utterly neglected in modern missionary work.

### 3. The Hawaiian Islands.

These islands have also come under the flag of America. They have a great strategic importance as the halfway house of the Pacific Ocean. There are fifteen islands, of which eight are inhabited. They contain 8,000 square miles, and about 100,000 inhabitants. The native tribes have decreased since the entrance of civilization, and appear to be becoming extinct. Today they only form two fifths of the population. There are many Japanese and also many English, Americans, and Germans. Early in the present century these islands were evangelized, and the story of the gospel in the Sandwich Islands, as they were then called, is one of the romances of modern nations. The converts have been formed into a native church, and this has even grown into a missionary church, having sent out evangelists to the neighboring islands and even to Japan. There is still

a good deal of missionary work to be done in these fair islands.

#### **4. West Indies.**

The last few years have opened the gates for the gospel in Cuba and Porto Rico. Already numerous Protestant churches are growing up throughout Cuba, and Porto Rico is becoming one of the most fruitful of modern missionary fields. The natives are simple and open to conviction, and hundreds are turning to God. But the supply of workers is still quite inadequate, and a loud call is being constantly repeated for laborers. The population of Cuba is about 1,500,000, and of Porto Rico, more than half this number. The British island of Jamaica has many Protestant churches. but there is much need for missionary work among the natives. The type of morality is low. Santo Domingo and Hayti are in a very dark and neglected state, but the gospel has been planted in many of the towns, partly through foreign chaplains, and partly through foreign missionaries. But here also the supply is utterly inadequate for the vast field. The French Islands are without

missionaries, and one of the saddest facts connected with the awful tragedy that lately swept over Martinique was that, a few months before, these ungodly people had refused to receive a party of missionaries who tried to establish a station in the very city that was soon afterwards overwhelmed.

### **5. The Caroline Islands.**

This group of Spanish islands spreads across 1,200 miles of the Pacific Ocean, from the Marshall Islands in the east to the Philippines in the west. There are 400 islands with a population of 40,000. They have been evangelized in part by an American society, but the work has been much hindered by the interference of the Spanish authorities and the destruction of the mission property. The western islands and the Pelew group nearby are still without missionaries, and God has laid them on the hearts of several of His people, as one of the great needs of the island world.

### **6. The Ladrone Islands.**

These islands, also known as Marianne Islands have been ceded to the United States. The principal island is Guam, an

American naval station. There is a population of 10,000, and as yet there are no missionaries. Samoa is also under American control. There are fourteen islands in the Samoan group, with a population of 30,000, and the islands are well evangelized.

### **7. Polynesia.**

Polynesia is the name given to the vast island world lying in the northern part of the great Pacific Archipelago. The leading groups of this great field have been mostly evangelized.

### **8. Micronesia.**

Micronesia is the next division of this great archipelago, and it includes the western field, of which the Caroline Islands are the chief. We have referred to them already.

### **9. Melanesia.**

Melanesia is the third of these vast South Pacific groups. It includes the races who are dark skinned and more like the negro race. The principal of these groups is Fiji. These were once savage and cannibal tribes, but they have become the tribes' trophies of the gospel, and today Fiji compares favorably in its

moral and religious life with the best of Christian lands, and nearly 100,000 of the people are members of the missionary churches.

### 10. Australasia.

Australasia is a term embracing those islands lying in the vicinity of Australia. New Zealand is one of these, and its native race, the Maoris, once savage and cruel, have been to great extent brought under the influence of the gospel. Celebes, a group of Dutch islands, have been mostly evangelized. So also has Java, a Dutch island, and Sumatra, but Borneo and New Guinea are still among the darkest of heathen lands and the most difficult of mission fields. The work has begun in both islands, and is calling loudly for reinforcement.

And so the Isles are listening to His voice and becoming the fair jewels of His millennial crown. God help us to hasten this consummation.

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## The Opportunity

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## The Opportunity

**T**HE word "opportunity" means an open door, and the door of opportunity for giving the gospel to all mankind is wide open today in every land.

**I. God's Providence has Broken Down National Barriers.** A hundred years ago India was closed to the gospel, and the first missionaries that arrived in Calcutta were deported by order of the East India Company; but God has broken up that Company and by the most tremendous forces has prepared the way of the gospel in all parts of India.

One hundred years ago China was sealed against the foreigner, and Morrison, the first missionary, had to wait outside of Canton for one quarter of a century. Even twenty-five years ago there were but a few treaty ports open along the coast of China, and a little fringe of missionaries, while the interior was utterly closed. Today every province in China is open and occupied. It has taken much to bring this about.

Foreign wars have humbled China and compelled her to open her gates to Western civilization for her own protection.

It is only a little while since Japan opened her doors to Western visitors. Today she is in the van of civilization in the Orient. Korea, the hermit nation, was utterly secluded until less than a generation ago; today she offers the most favorable mission field in the world.

Many of us can remember the geographies and atlases of our school days when the heart of Africa was drawn as an unexplored and probably uninhabited page of black; today all Africa is open and teeming with life.

Five years ago Cuba and the Philippine Islands were hermetically sealed against the admission of Protestant missionaries. Today Cuba is free and filled with Christian congregations, and the Philippines under the flag of freedom are welcoming the gospel to their towns.

These are but some of the changes which God has brought about in answer to His peoples' prayers to open the world to the gospel.

## **2. The Handmaids of Science and of**

**Commerce.** The modern explorer and advertising agent have blazed a pathway through every hidden corner of the heathen world. Eighty-five geographical societies are today pressing forward into the very heart of earth's hidden lands. The commercial drummer has painted his advertisements on the trees and mountains where even the missionary has not gone. Railroads, steamboats, and ocean cables are bridging every gulf that once divided distant nations. The first missionaries required a year to reach their fields. They can accomplish their journey now in a fortnight or a month. The flags of civilized nations assure them of protection on every heathen shore. A million men are working in the international postal union of the world, and keeping up communication between every quarter of the globe. In these and similar ways God has been going before and preparing the way for the message of the cross.

3. **Religious Handmaids, and Missionary Enterprises.** The work of Bible translation is the greatest of these. The first missionaries had to make a language

for the people among whom they went. The missionaries today find not only a written language, but the Word of God printed in it and ready for distribution among the people in hundreds of human tongues, reaching about three-quarters of the inhabitants of heathen lands in their own tongue. The headway thus given to the modern missionary is of incalculable value. Moreover, he finds a certain tone of public opinion in heathen countries which has been slowly created in favor of Christianity through the lives and teachings of previous missionaries. It takes generations to accomplish this foundation work. The life of Livingston alone was a certificate of character for every Englishman that should afterwards appear wherever he went. And so the present generation is entering into the labors of other men who toiled and suffered in loneliness and apparent fruitlessness.

**4. The Soil has been Prepared by the Holy Ghost.** The time was, not long ago, when the conversion of a heathen was looked upon as a kind of prodigy and it was a grave question whether such a

thing was possible. Today the soil of every heathen land has been mellowed and fertilized by showers of blessing and glorious revivals. The heavens have been stored with prayers that are being answered every day and the very air is charged with spiritual forces which the first missionaries looked in vain to find in the devil-blighted realms of heathen night.

**5. New Forms of Work have been Developed in the Past Generation.** Fifty years ago there was really little for the layman or the woman in the work of the gospel. The conventional minister was expected to do it all. Today the Church of God is a busy hive with work for every age, sex and class. The day is past when even a college education was indispensable for the useful missionary. Young men are going from the business office and the plough into hand to hand work with sin and Satan in the dark places of the earth, and many of the most useful missionaries today are plain men and women that have never gone through the ordinary course of ministerial training. Any earnest man or woman who is

really called to this glorious work can find a way if he will but dare to trust and go forward.

The spiritual forces of our age are intensely missionary. The air is full of it. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is falling upon earnest souls and fitting them for great and heroic lives. The work of the Student Volunteers and the Young Peoples' Associations is thoroughly missionary in its tendency, and there is a spirit abroad that is steadily deepening the conviction on earnest souls that the work of evangelizing the world is the greatest work of this generation and is possible within our own life time.

**6. The Financial Resources of Our Age Create an Extraordinary Opportunity.** Wealth is growing at a prodigious rate. Quickly young men are becoming millionaires and the spirit of large and splendid liberality is gradually becoming prevalent among those who control great amounts of money. So far, unfortunately, this is finding its outlet on the lower plane of mere charitable and educational work. But the day is at hand when it will rise to the highest level and

reach out in princely gifts and magnificent plans to speedily evangelize the whole world. Some young business man may be reading these lines whom God may yet trust with wealth enough to evangelize a nation. What grander ambition can inspire your soul and ennoble your life! May God help each one of us to rise to the magnificent opportunity, and meet the solemn responsibility of our age!



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